Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 08696 01 OF 02 271917Z

46
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W
---------- 075148
R 271740Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO DOD WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2948
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 08696

EXDIS

ISA FOR AMBASSADOR HILL AND BGEN LOBDELL

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: OVIP, MARR, PINR, UK, NATO
SUBJECT: VISIT OF LORD CARRINGTON
REF: LONDON 7872

1. LORD CARRINGTON'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK COMES AT A TIME HE AND HIS FELLOW EUROPEAN DEFENSE MINISTERS ARE FOCUSING SHARPLY ON EUROPEAN SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AND, IN PARTICULAR, ON FUTURE ROLE OF US IN EUROPE. IMPLICATIONS OF "YEAR OF EUROPE" ARE WELL APPRECIATED BY MOD POLICY MAKERS, WHO RECOGNIZE THAT MAINTENANCE OF FIRM AND EQUITABLE US-EUROPEAN NATO SECURITY RELATIONSHIP IS BASIC TO THE ALLIANCE. THUS, EDIP, BURDEN SHARING, CSCE AND MBFR ARE VERY MUCH ON THEIR MINDS.

2. INITIALLY, LORD CARRINGTON AND HIS ADVISERS VIEWED HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER LARGELY AS VEHICLE FOR ESTABLISHING CLOSE RELATIONSHIP THROUGH WIDE-RANGING BUT GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON FULL RANGE OF SECURITY-RELATED TOPICS. WHILE THIS OBJECTIVE STILL HIGH ON MOD'S LIST HE WILL BE MAKING EVERY EFFORT (WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS, THE PRESS AND THROUGH HIS TV APPEARANCE) TO PROMOTE NATO ALLIANCE AS DYNAMIC INSTI-
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PAGE 02 LONDON 08696 01 OF 02 271917Z

TUTION ALERT AND RESPONSIVE TO PROBLEMS OF THE 70'S.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

ON SUBSTANTIVE FRONT, HE WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON MBFR TO "WEIGH-IN" IN FAVOR O? A CAUTIOUS, LIMITED APPROACH THAT PLACES MINIMUM STRAINS ON NATO AND, IN HIS OPINION, LEADS TOWARD AN AGREEMENT LEAST DISADVANTAGEOUS TO THE WEST.
3. LORD CARRINGTON'S STAFF HAS TOLD US HE WILL WANT TO QUESTION IN SOME DETAIL THE RATIONALE FOR SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S INTERVENTION AT THE DPC, AND TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON CSCE, OUR BURDEN SHARING INITIATIVE AND MBFR. HE ALSO PLANS TO RAISE SEVERAL POINTS ON SALT. BUT IT IS IN THE MBFR AREA THAT LORD CARRINGTON PROBABLY WILL CONCENTRATE.

4. HMG HAS NEVER BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT MBFR, BUT IT HAS RECOGNIZED THE POLITICAL PROBLEM WE FACE AND IS DE-TERMINED TO PLAY A FULL AND USEFUL ROLE IN THE E-W DISCUSSIONS SOON TO BE JOINED. WE ARE REPORTING AND COMMENTING ON CURRENT BRITISH POSITION IN SEPTEL, WHICH DISCUSSES THEIR PERCEPTION OF BASES FOR DISCUSSION, MILITARY CAPABILITY VS MANPOWER CEILINGS, STATIONED VS INDINOUS FORCES, PRUDENT REDUCTION LIMITS AND NE-GOTIATING STRATEGY. WE ARE TOLD THAT LORD CARRINGTON IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS LATTER POINT (ALTHOUGH SOME OF HIS WORRIES MAY BE ALLAYED BY NEW US PAPER TABLED IN BRUSSELS 27 JULY). BRIEFLY, HE FEELS WE SHOULD "SOUND OUT" SOVIETS FOR FIRST MONTH OR SO AND

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PAGE 01 LONDON 08696 02 OF 02 271757Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W
---------- 074428
R 271740Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO DOD WASHDC
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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 08696

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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NOT MAKE SPECIFIC PROPOSAL AT OUTSET WHICH UNQUESTIONABLY WOULD LEAK (OR BE LEAKED), WOULD COMMIT US TO CERTAIN LINES OF NEGOTIATIONS, COULD ONLY BE VIEWED AS UNREASONABLE (IF TOO ASYMETRICAL) OR AS NEGOTIATING PROPOSITION (IF MORE BALANCED) AT WHICH BOTH SIDES WOULD LIKELY CHIP AWAY. HE REPORTEDLY PREFERS MOVING TOWARD AN APPROACH THAT WOULD SET INTERRELATED MAXIMUMS AND MINIMUMS FOR NATO AND PACT FORCES ON WHICH AFTER A FEW WEEKS THE CONFEREES COULD BE BROUGHT TO FOCUS. MOD EXPECTS SOVIETS TO BE MOST CAUTIOUS IN TALKS, MOST LIKELY TO SIT BACK AND WAIT.

5. LORD CARRINGTON ALSO PLANS TO RAISE THE CONVENTIONAL FORCES "DATA BASE" QUESTION, WHICH GAINED SUCH PROMINENCE IN NATO CAPITALS AFTER THE SECRETARY'S DPC INTERVENTION AND ON WHICH SELECTED MOD PERSONNEL WERE BRIEFED (MOST CONVINCINGLY, WE ARE TOLD) BY OSD ON 9-13 JULY. MOD IS NOW STUDYING OUR DATA, ASSUMPTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS WITH A VIEW TO ISOLATING THOSE CRITICAL FACTORS THAT DRIVE THE ANALYSIS; IF US-UK DIFFERENCES EITHER ARE SLIGHT OR CAN BE OVERCOME, MOD HOPES TO JOIN US IN AN APPROACH TO NATO IN THE FALL. WE UNDERSTAND LORD CARRINGTON'S MESSAGE TO THE SECRETARY WILL BE THAT HIS STAFF FOUND OSD'S EARLY JULY PRESENTATION BOTH GENUINE AND PERSUASIVE, THAT THEY ARE STUDYING OUR DATA TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE ARE CRITICAL DIF-

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FERENCES AND, IF SO TO ISOLATE THEM, THAT HE EXPECTS THIS PROCESS TO REQUIRE SOME 2-3 MONTHS, AND THAT HE HOPES WE WILL NOT PUSH THE MATTER FURTHER UNTIL OUR TWO COUNTRIES (WHO, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE FRG, ALONE POSSESS THE ANALYTICAL CAPABILITY TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM) CAN SORT THE MATTER OUT AND COME TO SOME AGREEMENT ON AN APPROACH TO NATO. IN THE INTERIM IF A MORE LIMITED COMMON DATA BASE IS NEEDED FOR MBFR, MOD OFFICIALS ARE HOPEFUL THE NAC COULD REACH SOME SORT OF AGREEMENT (APPROPRIATELY FOOTNOTED TO PROTECT NATIONAL POSITIONS) ON AN "MBFR ONLY" BASIS.

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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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